UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/18
25 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 30 March-10 April 1992
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

Status of the voluntary fund

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991, reiterated its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of travel of representatives of the least developed countries to the World Conference on Human Rights and to its preparatory meetings, including regional meetings. It also requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in this regard.

2. A note verbale, with an accompanying information note, was sent to all States on 10 January 1992, soliciting contributions to the voluntary fund established for this purpose and advising them of the amount required to cover the costs of travel of representatives of the least developed countries in the various meetings of the preparatory process and the World Conference itself. A report on the status of the fund was made to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1992/57/Add.1).

3. At the time of preparation of the present report, contributions had been received from the Governments of China, Finland, Ireland, Morocco, the Netherlands and Norway. The total amount so far contributed is US$ 233,605. The Secretary-General has also been informed that the Government of France has decided to contribute FF 100,000 to the fund and that the Government of Sweden has agreed to contribute Skr 300,000. The Government of Australia has also advised the Secretariat that it will contribute $A 15,000 to the fund. The Australian and Chinese contributions are to be used to meet the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries in the Bangkok regional meeting.

4. A communication was sent to the Governments of all least developed countries on 21 February 1992 advising them of the availability of financial assistance for their representatives to attend the second session of the Preparatory Committee and requesting them to advise the Centre for Human Rights if they wished financial assistance under the terms of the fund. As of the date of this report, a total of 21 requests for assistance had been received by the Secretariat.

5. As in his report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to States which may be in a position to do so to contribute to the fund. It will be recalled that the target figure which needs to be attained in order to meet the financial requirements of participation by the least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process is approximately US$ 690,000.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/18/Rev.1
2 April 1992

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 30 March-10 April 1992
Agenda item 9

PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

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3. At the time of preparation of the present report, contributions had been received from the Governments of China (US$ 11,000), Czechoslovakia (US$ 2,000), Finland (US$ 68,248), Ireland (US$ 8,307), Morocco (US$ 4,980), the Netherlands (US$ 111,111), Norway (US$ 29,958) and Sweden (US$ 49,140). The total amount so far contributed is US$ 284,744. The Secretary-General has also been informed that the Government of France has decided to contribute FF 100,000 to the fund. The Government of Australia has also advised the Secretariat that it will contribute $A 15,000 to the fund. The Australian and Chinese contributions are to be used to meet the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries in the Bangkok regional meeting.

4. A communication was sent to the Governments of all least developed countries on 21 February 1992 advising them of the availability of financial assistance for their representatives to attend the second session of the Preparatory Committee and requesting them to advise the Centre for Human Rights if they wished financial assistance under the terms of the fund. As of the date of this report, a total of 23 requests for assistance had been received by the Secretariat.

5. As in his report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to States which may be in a position to do so to contribute to the fund. It will be recalled that the target figure which needs to be attained in order to meet the financial requirements of participation by the least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process is approximately US$ 690,000.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/19
26 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 30 March-10 April 1992
Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph IV of its resolution 46/116 decided that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of its resolution 45/155, regional meetings should be convened for each region that so desired within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions and that those meetings should be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference, as recommended for consideration by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 1991/30.

2. Subsequent to the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary-General of the Conference was notified of the desire of three regional groups to hold regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights.

3. The Secretariat has been informed by the groups concerned of their wishes in regard to the date and duration of these meetings. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243, entitled "Pattern of conferences" in which the General Assembly decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional cost directly or indirectly involved, the regional meetings will take place according to the following schedule:

(a) The regional meeting for Latin America will take place at San José from 6 to 10 July 1992;

(b) The regional meeting for Asia will take place at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok from 17 to 21 August 1992;

(c) The regional meeting for Africa will take place at Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992.

4. As part of the preparatory process for the World Conference on Human Rights, these regional meetings are expected to focus on means of enhancing the implementation of human rights norms at the international, regional and national levels, bearing in mind the human rights aspects considered to be of particular concern to the respective region.

5. The parameters for the provisional agendas for the regional preparatory meetings would include issues related to the protection and promotion of human rights, including the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments. In addition, each regional meeting would consider issues of particular importance to the region which related to the objectives of the World Conference from the perspective of that region. The final report of each regional preparatory meeting would be considered by the World Conference itself.